

## HUNG AT LAST.

Mrs. Rogers Dies on the Gallows for Her Crime.

## MURDERED HUSBAND.

Whom She Chloroformed at a Meeting in the Woods While She Was Caressing Him. Great Efforts Were Made to Save the Woman.

But They Failed.

A dispatch from Windsor, Vt., says Mrs. Mary Rogers was hanged at the Vermont State prison at 1:13 o'clock Friday afternoon for the murder of her husband, Marcus Rogers at Bennington, on August 13, 1902. Mrs. Rogers was pronounced dead by the prison officials at 1:27 1-2.

The execution took place after the woman had twice been relieved on account of appeals made by her counsel and after the United States Supreme Court refused to take action in the case.

Only a comparatively few persons witnessed the hanging, the number being restricted to those permitted to attend by the laws of Vermont.

Mrs. Rogers maintained her composure to the last and mounted the gallows with a steady step. Although a deathly pallor overspread her countenance, hardly a muscle quivered as Deputy Sheriff Sheffard pronounced the fatal words, "I now proceed to execute the sentence of the law and may God have mercy on your soul."

When the words were pronounced Deputy Sheriff Angus McAuley sprung the trap and the drop fell. The crime for which Mrs. Mary Rogers was sentenced to death was the murder of her husband, Marcus Rogers, at Bennington, on August 13, 1902. At the time the crime was committed Mrs. Rogers was only nineteen. She had been separated from her husband for some time and was desirous of marrying a young man named Maurice Knapp.

On the day of the murder Marcus Rogers went to Bennington to visit his wife and that night she arranged to meet him in the woods near the Walloomsack river. While caressing him she induced him to allow her to bind his hands, and while he was powerless she chloroformed him. In this she was aided by Leon Perham, a half-witted boy who was the son of the woman with whom she boarded. Another woman, Estella Bates, was present.

A few days after the murder Mrs. Rogers, Perham and the Bates woman were arrested. Perham made a complete confession and both he and Mrs. Rogers were found guilty of murder in the first degree. Perham was sentenced to imprisonment for life and Mrs. Rogers was sentenced to the death gallows.

Various attempts were made to commute Mrs. Rogers' sentence but all failed. The date set for the execution was February 3, 1905. Gov. Bell granted two reprieves for the presentation of new evidence, but the court denied the petition for a new trial each time, and the United States Supreme Court refused to consider the case.

Certain disclosures regarding scandals in the Vermont State prison at Windsor, where Mrs. Rogers has been confined, have, it is claimed, affected public sentiment. According to testimony before the prison investigation committee of the Legislature one of the convicts at Windsor had access to Mrs. Rogers' cell some time after the first reprieve was granted. It was alleged that this was part of a conspiracy on the part of certain prison officials to bring about such a condition as would further postpone the execution.

Mrs. Rogers was the first person sentenced to death in Vermont within the past thirteen years who was refused clemency. The last woman to be executed was Mrs. Emeline Mosker, at Windsor, on March 30, 1883.

On the march to the gallows Mrs. Rogers declined the assistance of deputies. Her step was firm. She mounted the scaffold unaided and stopped exactly upon the center of the trap. She sat down in the chair for a moment and, when asked if she had any final statement to make she shook her head negatively.

Mrs. Rogers' body has been claimed by her mother and sister, and will be buried by them at Hoxsick Falls, N. Y., where the mother, Mrs. Josie Callahan, resides.

### A Cook Held Up.

The Columbia State says "the residents in the vicinity of Blanding and Bull streets were startled by a cry for the police about 9 o'clock Tuesday night and an investigation disclosed another alleged attempt to hold up a pedestrian. Four policemen were quickly on the scene but a thorough search failed to find any trace of the shadowy footpad. A colored cook who is said to work at hotel was on his way to his home in Waverly, when he was confronted by a tall white man who, he says, tried to hold him up but when the colored man gave the alarm the white man disappeared by leaping the low fence enclosing the campus of the Presbyterian seminary and running through the yard. No trace of him could be found by the police.

### Asphyxiated.

Frank Martin and John L. Oliver, both of Bath, Me., were found dead in bed at the residence of Martin's sister, Mrs. Francis McAuley of Providence, R. I. They had been asphyxiated by illuminating gas, accidentally turned on.

## A TRAGIC DEATH.

Mans Head Split Open by Flying Fragments of a Saw

A Resident of Columbia Was Operating Wood Saw for His Son in Lexington County.

The State says Mylas D. Blackmon of Columbia was killed in Lexington county Friday morning about 11 o'clock by the bursting of a circular saw which he was operating in sawing wood. The saw was running at its usual high rate of speed when for some unknown reason it flew into fragments and one of the pieces struck him full in the face, splitting open his head from chin to crown. Mr. Blackmon's son and others who were near ran quickly to his assistance and preparations were hurriedly made to bring the injured man to the Columbia hospital. He was placed in a vehicle and the start for this city was soon made but before they had proceeded two miles Mr. Blackmon breathed his last. He never regained consciousness after he was struck. The accident happened at the home of his son, about eight miles from the city on the old State road.

Mr. Blackmon lived in that city with his two daughters, Misses Maggie and Lena Blackmon, at 604 Gervais street. He has been working for about two weeks. Yesterday morning they went to work as usual. Mr. Blackmon was running the saw which cuts the wood into short lengths when without an instant's warning it flew into several pieces. One of them struck him in the face, just on the right side of the nose and sunk itself into the flesh and bone, laying open his face and cutting deep into his brain.

A doctor was near at hand and was soon called. He saw at once how desperate was the mans condition and knew that the only possible hope lay in getting him to the hospital. With all the rapidity of a faithful son's eager efforts, arrangements were soon made to bring him to that city but he was even then beyond human aid and before one fourth of the distance had been covered he had succumbed to his frightful injuries.

His body was brought to the city and placed in the undertaking parlors of Funderburk & Matteson, where it was prepared for burial. Coroner Walker of Richland county and the coroner of Lexington both decided that no inquest would be necessary. Mr. Blackmon was 54 years of age and was born in Lancaster county seat, in the Black Creek neighborhood. He has been a resident of Columbia for 15 years. He is survived by the one son, already mentioned, and the two daughters with whom he lived. He leaves also three brothers, Messrs. J. C. and Mint Blackmon of Lancaster county and Minor Blackmon of Florida and two sisters, Mrs. Belle Griffin and Mrs. Nancy McCaonton, both of Lancaster county.

The remains of Mr. Blackmon will be taken to his former home in Lancaster for interment at 3:30 o'clock Friday afternoon. The funeral will take place on Sunday morning.

### Blind Tiger Killed.

On Friday morning Chief of Police M. D. Littlefield, of Greens, shot and killed Lewis Brewton, colored, suspected of selling blind tiger liquor. Chief Littlefield went to Greentown, a negro settlement, to arrest Brewton. He found him in a negro house, arrested him and was leading him out of the house when the negro drew his gun. The chief was quick enough for him and both began firing about the same time. Five shots were exchanged, Brewton firing three of these. The negro ran out firing as he went and fell dead within 100 yards of the house. Coroner Wooten empaneled a jury Friday evening, which rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide. Lewis Brewton is one of the most notorious blind tigers in this section. He boasted of the piles of money he had made out of the business. It is thought that Brewton was but the agent of white men in the Dark Corner.

### Big Road Falls.

At London, England the south end of the immense road spanning the Charing Cross main line station suddenly collapsed Wednesday afternoon and completely blocked the lines. A number of workmen and trainmen were caught in the wreckage. The roof of the Avenue Theater adjoining the station also collapsed. About thirty injured persons have already been taken to the hospital. One of them died and the others are in a critical condition. There are a number of dead among the ruins. The Continental express, filled with passengers, was standing outside the station waiting for the signal to enter when the collapse of the roof occurred.

### Russian Red Tape.

A story of Russian red tape is told by W. T. Stead. Gen. Linévitch, while in supreme command of the Russian army in Manchuria, once used a rubber-stamp signature for the papers which he had to sign every day before he could draw forage for his own horses. The commissary general returned the rubber stamp signed papers as out of order and every day the general commanding an army of 500,000 men had to affix his autograph to the requisition for his horses' oats.

### Barned to Death.

A dispatch from Johnston to The State says a colored girl 14 years old living on the farm of Mr. J. L. Hart was burned to death Thursday from her clothing catching fire and as she was running could not be saved.

## TEN PERSONS KILLED

And a Number Injured by a Head on Collision.

Ten persons were killed and 11 train employees and eight passengers were injured in the wreck of the Overland Limited passenger train No. 2, on the Union Pacific, five miles west of Rock Springs, Wyo., Thursday morning. The Limited was run into head-on by a freight train and both engines were demolished.

The dynamo car, mail car and dining car on the limited burned to the wheels. Several of the dead were incinerated. An extra freight train was given an order before it left Rock Springs to meet four eastbound passenger trains, of which the Overland Limited was the last one, at Ahsay, a siding five miles west of Rock Springs.

The freight took the siding at Ahsay and waited until three of these had passed east and then pulled out. When a mile and a half west of Ahsay the freight met the Overland Limited and crashed into it, head-on.

Both engines were demolished and the first three cars of the Overland Limited immediately caught fire and were burned. Engineer Brink of the freight train, who it is stated officially, was responsible for overrunning his orders was one of the killed. Several trains had been badly delayed at Granger, with the result that four passenger trains were running close together. The freight had received positive orders to meet all four of the trains at Ahsay, and the officials say that the orders were either misunderstood or misread.

### Killed His Son.

A special from Anderson to The State says L. J. Jordan a negro who lives on South Fant street, killed his son Westley Jordan, a youth about 19 years old with a broom stick. The boy had been unruly and the father started to chastise him using a broom stick for that purpose. He struck the boy a sharp blow across the head and the boy sank into a chair and soon became unconscious and died in a few minutes. Jordan sent for a physician and was working over his son's body, trying to revive him when the physician arrived. The physician says that death resulted from a hemorrhage of the brain which was caused by the blow. Jordan remained at his home until the deputy sheriff arrived and arrested him and carried him to jail. It is generally believed that Jordan's story of the killing is correct.

### Dispensary Must Pay.

The supreme court of the United States last week held that the national government may properly tax the state liquor dispensaries of South Carolina. The action in question was instituted by the state of South Carolina to recover \$200,000 paid to the revenue officers of the national government on account of the sale of liquors by the state and county dispensaries under the dispensary law of South Carolina. The state took the position that as the dispensaries sold the liquor without profit they should not be taxed by the government, but the tax has been collected since 1893. This is said to have been the first case in which a state unites in one undertaking the exercise of its police power together with the prosecution of a commercial business.

### Justified in Firing.

In Altoona, Pa., the other night five young men serenaded the lady love of one of the party. A neighbor raised a nearby window and fired a revolver at the party then called a policeman and had them all arrested for disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace. In police court the next morning the young men protested that they were singing love songs, and offered to sing for the court by way of proving their innocence of the charge against them. The court heard them sing two selections whereupon the serenaders were imprisoned that if the court had preyiously any doubt as to their guilt it had entirely disappeared. "Anybody would be justified for firing at you, if you were making a noise like that," said the judge. He fined them \$5 each.

### Pursued by Cannibals.

Among the passengers who arrived at San Francisco from Australia on the liner Snomma were Captain Watts and Chief Officer Alex Stinson, of the American ship Susquehanna, which founded shortly after she left N'hone, New Caledonia, August 23 last, with a cargo of chrome iron for Delaware breakwater. The crew left the ship in three boats which were headed for the Solomon Islands. Only one boat landed there. The other two were picked up at sea by a trading schooner. There the men were kindly treated for a time but finally had to fly for their lives from a set of cannibals who threatened their existence. They were subsequently picked up by a trading vessel and joined the rest of the crew at Sydney.

### Little Girl Burned.

A little daughter of Mr. Jud Allibon was frightfully burned Thursday at home about three miles from Gaffney. From the meagre details at hand it is learned that the mother left the little one to go to the well a short distance from the house. On returning she met the child in flames. The condition of the child is serious.

### Death List of Hunters.

The total number of hunters killed by accident so far this year, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan is twenty-six. Fifty-one have been wounded. More hunters were killed this year by accidental discharge of their own guns than ever before. Many were shot by mistake by hunters who took them for deer.

## THE CRAFTERS

Are Stirred Up By Senator Tillman's Big Pitchfork.

## CORRUPTION FUND

Being Investigated By the United States

Senate, Senator Tillman Having Introduced a Bill For That Purpose, Which Passes After

Some Discussion.

The subject of campaign contributions by insurance companies occupied the major portion of the time of the United States Senate on Thursday. It came up in connection with Mr. Tillman's resolution calling for investigation of national bank aid in politics and was exploited by the South Carolina senator in a speech of some length. It was couched in characteristic language and attracted considerable attention. The resolution directing the secretary of the treasury to report whether the reports of the national bank examiners show that the banks have made campaign contributions in recent years was adopted at the close of Mr. Tillman's remarks.

Outlining his reasons for the inquiry, Mr. Tillman called attention to the recommendation made by the president in his annual message of 1904 and 1905 for the enactment of a law for protection against bribery and corruption in connection with elections. He quoted with especial emphasis the president's remarks concerning campaign contributions by corporations. "Our chief executive has taken a very progressive stand to secure purity in elections," he said, and added, "every good American will say 'well done' and look for progress along that line."

He conceded that the secretary might not have the facts wanted but he thought he ought to have. Incidentally, Mr. Tillman said that he had been informed that the comptroller of the currency has been investigating the subject of blank contributions with the view of instituting legal proceedings.

Before Mr. Tillman had proceeded far, Mr. Gallinger, who had Wednesday objected to the consideration of the resolution at that time, said that he had done so only for the purpose of inspecting it, that he had done so and being entirely satisfied as to its propriety would support the resolution.

Continuing Mr. Tillman said that the comptroller has means for getting information which others have not and added, that if he would "push in his probe he can make discoveries that are worth while." He added that his reasons for requesting the information is found in the revelations concerning the insurance companies, "It has been shown by the testimony, or confession of a member of this body," he said, "that for ten years the insurance corporations have been making annual donations to the Republican party with the understanding that they should be protected from adverse legislation at Albany."

"I am the holder of a small policy in one of the mutuals," he said, "and I don't like to have my dividends cut down in order to give Mr. McCurdy \$150,000 and his sisters, his cousins, and his aunts \$75,000 each."

He expressed doubt as to the right of the federal authorities to take control of insurance companies and Mr. Hale interrupted to say that he agreed with Mr. Tillman on that point.

Mr. Bailey asked whether the insurance company contributions to the republican national committee had been returned to the donors.

"I understood," replied Mr. Tillman, "that the president was going to have Mr. Cortelyou return them, but I don't know whether he has done so. I know that I have not got my share."

Mr. Spooner—Is yours a life policy.

Mr. Tillman—It is.

Mr. Spooner—Then it is not yet time to realize on it.

Mr. Tillman replied that it was dividends and not the policy itself that he wanted paid.

"These," he said, "were pitifully small, while McCurdy has been getting fat without doing anything."

Mr. Bailey said he had not supposed that the president could make a second recommendation on the subject of punishing campaign contributors until the money had been returned.

"Ah, Mr. President," responded Mr. Tillman, "all the Turkeys and Pecksniffs are not dead yet, although I would not for a moment be understood as comparing our strenuous occupant of the White House with those characters. What we want is results and those we do not seem to have procured so far."

Quoting the testimony of Senator Platt before the New York committee, Mr. Tillman congratulated the senator upon his straightforwardness. "There was no dodging," he said, "and I do not believe that a dollar of the money ever stuck to his fingers."

He added his conviction, however, that the contributions had had the effect of controlling the New York legislature in the interest of the insurance companies.

Mr. Tillman quoted the charges made by Judge Parker in the last campaign connecting the Republican campaign contributions with the fact that Chairman Cortelyou had recently

retired from the office of secretary of the department of commerce. He also quoted the president's reply which he said was "red hot," and added that not a dollar had been needed to elect the president. Notwithstanding this fact, he said that it had been shown that \$1,900,000 had been contributed for that purpose, that is, if the newspaper men may be believed, "and," he added, "they are about as reliable as any other class. They will lie sometimes as we do, and occasionally they get orders that such and such a man shall be blown. Then they proceed to plant the microbes, but upon the whole they may be depended upon."

### JORDAN HAD REPORT CHANGED.

Induced Secretary Wilson to Estimate on Gross Weight.

To President Harvie Jordan of the Southern Cotton Association, according to advices from Washington, is due the fact that the government crop estimate was not 500,000 bales larger than the figures given.

According to the story which reached Atlanta, Assistant Secretary Hayes, of the statistical bureau wired Secretary Hester, of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange that the cotton crop estimate would be made on the basis of 475 pounds the bale, instead of 500 pounds as heretofore, the object being to give the net weight of the bale.

This basis would have increased the estimated by something like 500,000 bales and would undoubtedly have had an appreciable effect in bringing down the price of cotton.

Secretary Hester wired this information to President Jordan of the Southern Association and he received the telegram just in time to catch the noon limited train for Washington. Mr. Jordan went right to the office of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and it is said demanded that the estimate be made in accordance with usage that is on the basis of 500 pounds to the bale. It is said this is why the publication of the estimate, which was expected to have been given out at 10 o'clock, was delayed until 12:30 p. m.

According to a telegram from President Jordan, Secretary Wilson not only granted his request but also agreed to make the report without the usual percentage which was added or deducted under the Hyde administration.

### Horrible Accident.

On last Wednesday morning Mr. John C. Funches, who lives near Rowesville, met with a most horrible accident. He was operating a sugar cane mill, and by some means his coat sleeve on the right arm was caught in the cogs. Before Mr. Funches could pull the sleeve out his arm was drawn in the cogs and crushed to the elbow. The machinery was stopped as soon as possible and Mr. Funches was released from the mill. Later Dr. A. S. Hydrick, of this city, assisted by Dr. J. D. S. Fahey, amputated the arm just above the elbow. We extend our sympathy to Mr. Funches and hope that he will soon be up again.

### Bought It Back.

The Spartanburg Journal says an important land sale made Monday which was not published was that of 1460 acres near Paolet. The land was sold under mortgage of W. T. Simmons to the Fidelity Loan and Trust Company, and was bought in by G. L. Carrier for the sum of \$9550. This is considered a fine bargain by those who are best on land values. The land in question has a history. Some weeks ago Mr. Simmons purchased the property through a Western real estate man, who handled the property for Mr. Carrier paying about \$11,000 for the property. Mr. Carrier bought back his land. He now has his original tract of land and he is about \$1,800 to the good.

### A Dead Issue.

The Columbia Record says J. Warren Kiefer, of Ohio, formerly speaker of the house, is back in Congress, and he comes primed and loaded with Southern representative reduction schemes. The chief cook and bottle washer in this movement, Crumpacker, is still on hand, but he has been rebuffed and turned down so often by his own party in this matter that he is as yet undecided what he will pursue in this Congress. He and Kiefer will doubtless get together and produce the annual bill. They will be given the opportunity to make the usual bitter, partisan speeches but this will be as a passing breeze and will be quickly forgotten.

### Killed by a Tenant.

C. J. Hughes who formerly resided in Gaffney, was shot and is reported killed by Rufus Byars, a tenant near his home in Cherokee county last week. Relations between the two are said to have been strained for some time. Details of the affair are very scarce there. Byars, too was formerly a resident of Gaffney. The shooting was done with a double barreled shot gun two shots taking effect. Both men are about 30 years old. A warrant has been issued for Byars and his wife by Magistrate B. J. Gold, at Blacksburg. Officers from this city have gone to the scene. Both men are well known here.

### Many Officers Killed.

A dispatch from Harbin Manchuria says many officers are being killed by rebellious troops. Reserve officers are not permitted to return home. All messages from Manchuria are censored.

## SPEN! BIG SUM.

Cornlyou Dis,ensed Nearly two Million Dollars on Campaign.

It Came from Many Sources, the Largest Subscription Was One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

According to a Washington newspaper which, with evidence of friendly handling, prints a long statement about the expenses of Chairman Cortelyou in 1904, the Republican national committee used the sum of \$1,800,000 to elect Roosevelt and Fairbanks, and had in bank when the campaign was ended about \$100,000.

It is stated that Chairman Cortelyou had \$930,000 less than Chairman Hanna had in 1900 and nearly \$2,000,000 less than he had in 1896. It is also declared to be a fact that the Democratic national committee in 1892, when Mr. Cleveland was elected the second time, had a fund exceeding anything known in American politics before or since—the sum of \$4,100,000.

Chairman Cortelyou, according to this article, turned over to State committee in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Nevada the sum of \$700,000. No amount is fixed as to the sum expended in New York by the national committee through Gov. O'Call, but it must have been largely in excess of \$200,000. For literature, it states, the national committee expended \$550,000; for the speakers' bureau, \$175,000; for lithographs, advertising, etc., \$150,000; for salaries and headquarters expenses, \$150,000, and for miscellaneous expenses, \$50,000.

It is stated that the money expended by Chairman Cortelyou came from 10,000 different sources, about 4,000 contributors being known, leaving about 6,000 unknown, to the chairman of the national committee. The large single contributor furnished upward of \$100,000, it is stated, and his identity was not known to either Chairman Cortelyou or Mr. Bliss.

The article is lacking in details as to the identity of corporations and corporation managers that contributed to the Republican funds. No reference whatever is made to contributions either from life insurance companies or railway companies, but it is alleged that in every instance where a contribution was made conditional on some political favor to come the offer was rejected or the money returned.

In connection with the Republican campaign fund, the statements are made that President Roosevelt and Chairman Cortelyou will cooperate to have passed a law providing for the publicity of contributions to political committees. Chairman Cortelyou declined to discuss the figures connected with the campaign of 1904, but intimated that they were "about right."

### New York Mysteries.

Three of New York's great highways, the river, the underground railway and street and that dark section known as "Chinatown," each furnished a police mystery last week. An unknown man jumped in front of a train as it swung into 137th street and Broadway station of the subway. His body was literally ground to pieces. The Chinatown mystery was the death of a white woman, Lottie Lane, whose husband, a Chinaman, died a short time ago. Lottie Lane had three callers Tuesday night of last week, a Chinaman and a white man and a white woman. During the night these callers summoned a physician and notified the police that their hostess had fainted. The physician found her dead. The police put the three callers under arrest. William Hallinger, who said he came down from Yonkers and after disposing of his load of produce started out to enjoy himself, was dragged from the East river with a fractured skull. Mabel Weber, a 20 year old girl was found lying bound, gagged and senseless in the hallway of her house in West Forty-Fifth street where she resided with two girl companions.

### Attempted Suicide.

Dr. J. B. Matthews, in jail at Greensboro, N. C., for wife murder, came near ending his life by cutting his wrist with a spoon handle one day last week. The physicians reached him in time to stop the flow of blood and he is now out of danger. A guard has been placed in the cell with him. A prisoner in an adjoining cell noticed him lying on his cot with his bandaged wrist hanging down. Asking what was the matter, Matthews responded that he was cold and had tangled his pulse to make him warm. Suspecting something wrong, the jailor was notified and on investigation found the prisoner with a tin spoon handle, but he had failed to sever the artery. He had tied a handkerchief over it and was holding his hand down with the edge of the blanket concealing it while his blood flowed in a bucket. Matthews swallowed a quid of tobacco, several matches and charred stumps of cigars before he had been allowed to smoke during the day. The physician gave him a powerful emetic and saved his life.

### Burned to Death.

The little community around Kyles Fort, Tenn., has been the scene of two shocking accidents in 24 hours. The first occurring Monday afternoon, was the accidental killing of Miss Rosa Collins, a well known young lady of the neighborhood, by the discharge of a shotgun in the hands of Cephas Roberts, while he was examining the gun in the home of Miss Collins' father.

The second was the burning to death of Miss Annie Gibson and her mother. The daughter's clothing caught fire and the mother running to her rescue was enveloped in the flames.

### Slow Collection.

A London money lender pressed his claim for money loaned in a city court and the judge, after an exhaustive inquiry into the merits of the case, directed the defendant to pay the debt at the rate of one penny per month, the entire amount to be paid by the end of the 209th year.

### Went Democratic.

The Democrats of Portland, Me., for the first time in twelve years, elected their mayor. Nathan Clifford, received 4,641, as against 4,429 for the Republican candidate.

### Killed Himself.

At New York Allen Klinedinst committed suicide early Sunday night by drinking carbolic acid. He died three hours afterwards in the presence of his young wife and child.

## NO MORE LEAKS

Extraordinary Precautions Taken in Preparing the Cotton Report.

## STATESMEN SHUT IN.

Convincing Demonstration of the Futility of the Estimate Room Given

Two Southern Representatives Who Wanted to See How

the Work Was Done.

A letter from Washington says Secretary Wilson is taking extraordinary precautions against leaks in the cotton report. He has had enough of scandal in that connection, and is determined that hereafter no leaks shall occur, if it takes a corps of watermen to prevent it. In making ready for the December report he placed the individual reports from the various agents throughout the country in an iron box, and then placed over the box, one of the most trusted employees in the department, armed with a large revolver. The faithful guardian of the papers remained on duty all night, and until he was relieved on Monday morning by the Secretary.

The Secretary himself took the reports from the box and delivered them to four men appointed to tabulate and make the required estimates. The men and the precious papers were hurried to a room assigned for them, and the doors of the room were securely locked, and guarded on the outside by two men, who were ordered to permit no one to enter or leave the room until the work of the board was completed. Before the board entered the room the telephone connection was severed so that no possible communication could be had with the outside world. It took five hours to make the required calculations, and the board was kept in close confinement all that time.

A good story is being circulated on Representative Burleson, of Texas, and Representative Bowie, of Alabama, in connection with this last cotton report. On Monday they visited Secretary Wilson, being much interested in the cotton matter. The Secretary politely invited them to remain and witness the method of tabulation, and the precautions used to prevent a leak. The two Representatives gladly accepted the invitation and were taken to the tabulation room. After witnessing the work for some time, and being deeply impressed with the way in which it was done, they thought it was time for them to go to the capitol to take their seats at the opening of the session.

They thanked the Secretary for what he had done, donned their overcoats and prepared to leave, when they were told that no one could leave until the work was completed. They pleaded and argued, but it was all in vain, so their places in the house remained vacant for three more weary hours. They were not permitted even to send a note explaining their situation and could not telephone as the instrument had been disconnected. So it was that two distinguished Congressmen from the South were not present at the lottery for seats, but they were willing to swear there was no leak in the December cotton report.

Representative Lewis, of Georgia, has introduced a resolution looking to the adoption of some new method for collecting and tabulating cotton statistics. The resolution provides for the appointment of a committee consisting of seven members to take the whole subject into consideration and evolve a system that will make the reports as reliable as possible.

### Postoffice Robbed.

The Columbia Record says the post-office and the store of R. L.